

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 16, 2005. Claims 1-50 are pending in the Application. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-50. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 21, 27, and 46 and canceled Claims 23 and 47. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added with these amendments. As described below, Applicants believe all claims to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The Claims are Allowable over the Cited References

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 25, 27-30, 33, 35-37, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,666 issued to Focsaneanu et al. ("*Focsaneanu*"). The Examiner rejected Claims 5-6, 8, 12-24, 26, 31-32, 34, 38-48, and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of *Focsaneanu* with U.S. Patent No. 5,805,154 issued to Brown ("*Brown*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,761,294 issued to Shaffer et al. ("*Shaffer*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,748,736 issued to Mittra ("*Mittra*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,510,152 issued to Gerszberg et al. ("*Gerszberg*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,215,483 issued to Zigmond ("*Zigmond*"), U.S. Patent No. 5,805,154 issued to Brown ("*Brown*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,314,094 issued to Boys ("*Boys*"), U.S. Patent No. 6,028,917 issued to Creamer et al., ("*Creamer*"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,550,900 issued to Ensor et al., ("*Ensor*").

Independent Claim 1 of the present application has been amended to incorporate features previously recited in dependent Claim 23. Dependent Claim 23, which was rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Focsaneanu* in view of *Mittra*, has now been canceled. With respect to former Claim 23, the Examiner acknowledges that *Focsaneanu* does not disclose, teach, or suggest "assigning customer premises to multicast domains to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming," as recited in amended Claim 1. Rather, the Examiner relies upon *Mittra* for disclosure of the recited "multicast domains."

Although *Mittra* discloses a “secure multicast group,” the multicast groups of *Mittra* are not the equivalent of Applicants’ recited “multicast domains to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming.” The system of *Mittra* allows “for secure group communication via multicast or broadcast transmission” among a “secure multicast group consisting of senders, receivers, a group security controller (GSC), and at least one trusted intermediary (TI) server.” (Abstract). In particular, “[t]he GSC and each TI server are responsible for maintaining the security of the group by authenticating and authorizing all other members of the multicast as well as managing the group key(s) (Kgrp(s)) that are used to encrypt the messages multicast to the group.” (Abstract). For the purpose of distributing group keys, *Mittra* discloses that “each secure multicast group includes sub-groups, with each of the sub-groups being served by a different TI server.” (Column 7, lines 1-3). Each TI server multicasts data to the members of its sub-group using its own group key such that “changes in membership of a sub-group [are] isolated to the multicast of the corresponding TI server.” Specifically, when a new member joins a group, the new group key (Kgrp), which provides access to the multicast transmissions, is changed to prevent the new member from “decrypting previous transmissions to which it should not have access.” (Column 8, lines 14-21). “Once the new Kgrp has been generated by the GSC, the current multicast group and the joining member all need to be apprised of the new Kgrp.” (Column 8, lines 22-24). Thus, the secure multicast group of *Mittra* merely allows changes in membership to affect a grouping of members rather than all members. The secure multicast groups of *Mittra* are not assigned “to support conditional access of the customer premises to content,” and certainly can not be said to be “assign[ed] to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, together with Claims 2-4, 7, 9-11, and 25, which depend from Claim 1.

Independent Claims 21, 27, and 46 recite certain features and operations that are similar to the features of Claim 1. For example, Claim 21 recites “assigning customer premises to multicast domains to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming.” As another example, Claim 27 recites a router operable to “assign customer premises to multicast domains to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming.” Claim 46 recites a router operable to “assign customer premises to multicast domains to support conditional access of the customer premises to content that is selected from the group consisting of selected television programming, video-on-demand, pay-per-view video, near-video-on-demand, audio channels, audio-on-demand, and interactive gaming.” Accordingly, for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest each and every element recited in Applicants’ Claims 21, 27, and 46. Claims 28-30, 33, 35-37, and 49 depend directly or indirectly upon Claim 27. Thus, for the same reasons that independent Claim 27 is allowable, these dependent claims are also allowable.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 25, 27-30, 33, 35-37, and 49.

Dependent Claims 5-6, 8, 12-20, 22-24, and 26 depend upon independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 31-32, 34, 38-45, 47-48, and 50 depend upon independent Claim 27. Accordingly, Claims 5-6, 8, 12-20, 22-24, 26, 31-32, 34, 38-45, 47-48, and 50 incorporate the limitations of their respective independent claims and are allowable for at least this reason. Because Applicants have shown independent Claims 1 and 27 to be allowable

above, Applicants have not provided detailed arguments with respect to Claims 5-6, 8, 12-20, 22-24, 26, 31-32, 34, 38-45, 47-48, and 50. However, Applicants remain ready to do so if it becomes appropriate. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5-6, 8, 12-20, 22-24, 26, 31-32, 34, 38-45, 47-48, and 50.

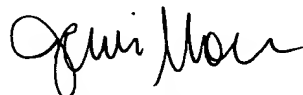
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to call Jenni R. Moen, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6809.

Applicants believe no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Jenni R. Moen
Reg. No. 52,038

Dated: August 15, 2005

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 05073